

CHS NEWS

A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

March 27, 2000

NEWS BRIEFS

FAIR PLANNING UNDERWAY

The CHS State Fair Planning Committee met for the first time on March 15. This year the State Fair is Aug. 17-27. Over 30,000 visitors stopped by our booth in the Health Fair area last year. We hope to reach even more people in 2000. Direct ideas or suggestions for CHS fair activities to Janis Stewart at 502-564-6786.

MARCH IS ...

Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. It recognizes people who have mental retardation and/or other developmental disabilities as active citizens, good workers, and good neighbors. This effort focuses on abilities and talents, instead of limitations.



TIP OF THE WEEK

Eating the right foods and the right amounts of foods can help you live a longer, healthier life. Research has shown that many illnesses - such as diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure - can be prevented or controlled by eating right. Eat a variety of foods (especially vegetables, fruits, dried beans, and whole grains) and foods low in fat and cholesterol.

CHS Empower Project Will Soon Empower Other Cabinets

"An inspection is an inspection is an inspection," according to David Klee, director of the Division of Public Health Protection & Safety in Public Health.

"When we started our Empower Kentucky mapping process, one of the very first things that jumped out at us was that inspections are universal. It doesn't really matter whether inspection is for food, safety, sanitization, radiation, or hospitals. The same basic principles apply across the board."

So, it was in this spirit that the Simplified Regulatory Project moved forward with the division's milk program. Soon all 15 milk inspectors will have computers about the size of a clipboard and use stylus pens in a point and click system to make inspections. Paperwork is eliminated and time is used more efficiently.

The system offers a drop down menu with options from which the inspector chooses. However, the system is not limited to the options. If a new situation arises, the inspectors can write comments that become part of the database.

When inspectors are done, they will print a report for their customer using a companion printer located in their vehicle. At the same time, the inspectors will transmit this data by telephone, cell or cable, to the office in Frankfort.

The benefits of this new system



David Klee demonstrates the computer that milk inspectors will use in the field.

do not stop there. These computers are powerful enough to run the entire Microsoft office suite product. This includes e-mail and allows for more efficient communications between field and central office staff. For example, the system will work great for timesheet transmittal.

"We are really excited about our project and can't wait to share it with other agencies," Klee said. The first meeting was March 16 with the Public Protection Cabinet where Klee and his Empower team demonstrated that, indeed, an inspection is an inspection is an inspection.

Western State Staff Pitches In For Charities

Employees at Western State Hospital have been working hard to help their community.

WSH was recognized by the Hopkinsville-Christian County United Way for its contributions in the recent Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign. The local United Way presented WSH with a Recognition Award as a result of raising \$25,807 for the effort, which represents a 32 percent increase from the previous year.

Four teams represented WSH on March 4th during the annual "Bowl for Kid's Sake" fundraising event for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Christian County. The teams raised \$900 for the event, which saw the organization reach its goal of \$40,000. Team captains were Steve Wiggins, Amelia Major, Regina Combs and Wally Murphy.

CALENDAR

April 4-7 is Public Health Week

April 5, Kick Butts Day

April 6, National Alcohol Screening Day

April 7, World Health Day



Kissing For A Good Cause



Dr. Rice Leach, commissioner of public health, leans over to plant a kiss on Kenny the donkey as part of a March of Dimes fundraiser sponsored by the Office of Vital Statistics on Friday. Above, March of Dimes ambassador Dakota Martin, age 3, and mom Niki look on. Vital Statistics has raised \$1,033 to date.

Employees Should Check Ethics Of Other Work

CHS employees are reminded of the ethics law that requires employees to avoid conflicts of interest with part-time employment.

In cases where there obviously is no association between the employee's agency and their part-time employer, there is no reason to request an opinion of the Executive Branch Ethics Commission. If in doubt of this relationship, opinions should be obtained through the Ethics Commission.

The steps to seek an ethics

opinion can be found at the cabinet's website at <http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/CHS/CHSPERS/proman/ethics.htm>

Please coordinate your inquiries through your Personnel Officer for review by the the Cabinet's Ethics Officer, Ellen Heslen. Mindy Hansen, Personnel Officer for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services can be reached at 502-564-9234. Jim Lambert, Personnel Officer for all other agencies in the Cabinet can be reached at 502-564-2157.

Move Update: The Work Continues

Work continues this week on the CHS move to the 5th floor in the Human Resources Building in Frankfort.



Employees are reminded to be careful when walking near the construction site. We will continue with updates each week to keep you posted on the move.

The CHS News is a newsletter for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services. Please direct contributions or comments to the Office of Communications, 502-564-6786. Printed with state funds.

